



Serial No. 09/682,862

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1746
RD-28647

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: L.B. Kool et al.
Serial No.: 09/682,862
Filed: October 25, 2001

: Group Art Unit: 1746
: Examiner: A. Markoff
: Response to Paper No. 3

For: PROCESS FOR PARTIAL STRIPPING OF
DIFFUSION ALUMINIDE COATINGS
FROM METAL SUBSTRATES, AND
RELATED COMPOSITIONS

RECEIVED

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

JAN 02 2004

Assistant Director of Patents and Trademarks
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231

TC 1700

Sir:

Applicants appreciate the consideration shown by the Office as evidenced by the Office Action mailed on 08 October 2003. In that Office Action, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement; objected to the drawings; and rejected the claims based on obviousness-type double patenting (1 actual rejection and two provisional rejections). In this Response, Applicants have elected claims in accordance with 37 CFR 1.143, provided amended drawings in response to the Examiner's objections, and provided a terminal disclaimer to overcome the actual obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the applications based on the remarks below and the attachments herein provided.

1. Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action dated 26 November 2003, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement to 2 groups: I. claims 1-32 (method) and II. claims 33-35 (composition). In

order to comply with 37 CFR 1.143, Applicants hereby elect the claims of group I for prosecution on the merits.

2. Drawing Objections

Applicants include herein a set of amended drawings. The drawings have not had any elements changed from what was originally submitted during the electronic filing process, but Applicants believe the quality of the figures attached herein, particularly with respect to the contrast and brightness, is far superior to that of the originally submitted figures, allowing the viewer to see much more detail that will make the references in the specification more clear. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the objections to the drawings in light of the amended drawings.

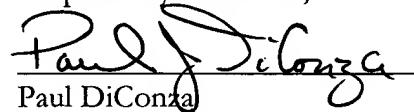
3. Claim Rejections—Double Patenting

Applicants attach herein a terminal disclaimer per 37 CFR 1.321(c) to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 1-32 over claims 1-46 of US 6,599,416. As this is the only actual rejection set forth in the Office Action, Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance. As to the two provisional rejections over pending applications, Applicants will consider filing terminal disclaimers as warranted in further prosecution of those particular cases.

4. Conclusion

In light of the remarks presented herein, Applicants believe that this serves as a complete response to the subject Office Action. If, however, any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Schenectady, New York

22 December 2003

Attachments: Amended Drawings; Terminal Disclaimer